



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

# Chairman's Newsletter

Number 10. May, 1981.

## THE MAGIC NUMBER (SORT OF).

Yes, ISASC for the moment is 200 strong and then some, the 200th member having joined a few weeks ago, followed quickly by members 201 through 206. However, unless a dozen or so delinquent members pay this year's dues soon, we'll be forced to drop them and, in so doing, revert to a net figure of something under 200. It will only be temporary, of course, because at the rate we're growing, we'll undoubtedly be well past 200 long before the year is out.

In that connection, the latest batch of membership cards is enclosed; remember to replace those marked "revise". Also, delete Robert Morgan and Brian Matthews from your directory, as both of them have resigned.

## HATS OFF TO AL EACHES.

As some of you already have learned, Al Eaches, one of ISASC's original directors and our treasurer from the beginning, suffered a stroke early in the year. We're glad to report that he's recovering nicely, but on doctor's orders he's been obliged to give up his ISASC responsibilities. We've accepted his resignation with reluctance, and at a recent director's meeting, the following motion was

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made, unanimously passed, and entered into our corporate minute book:

"In grateful appreciation to Albert R. Eaches for his significant contribution to the growth and well-being of ISASC, we, the directors, by unanimous vote, do hereby designate him Director Emeritus, and acknowledge his unstinting service to our society by granting him an honorary lifetime membership."

Al, of course, intends to keep active as a member and handle membership inquiries of a research nature. Feel free to write him along those lines or just to say "hello". He'll be delighted to hear from you.

WELCOME ABOARD, BOB MILLER.

With Al Eaches no longer active, we were obliged to replace him, and quickly, as the treasurer's job is a demanding one, necessitating day-in, day-out activity. However, luck was with us, as Bob Miller, a member of long-standing with just the right experience, agreed to take on the job. In mid-February, he flew to Phoenixville, Pa., and over the weekend met with Al, ISASC's accountant, and ISASC's banker. He then carried all the society's fiscal records back to his home in Naperville, Illinois, arranged for the transfer of funds, and did everything else necessary for a smooth transition. At the moment our affairs are in good order, and, in a matter of time, you'll discover just how competent (and cordial) a fellow Bob Miller is.

#### CONVENTION NEWS..

The Fourth International ISASC Convention has come and gone, and a fine affair it was indeed. It took place in Holland on April 11 and 12, and was attended by 50 or so members and spouses (as well as a few offspring) from the U.S., England, Germany, France, Switzerland, and of course, the host country.



The weekend started with cocktails and dinner Saturday evening at the Europa Hotel in Scheveningen, characterized, as one might guess, by scale talk until close to midnight. After dessert, photo albums appeared as if by magic, scales materialized from thin air, and everyone quickly got to know everyone by discussing everyone's favorite hobby. The next morning, the convention resumed in Delft at the Oudheidkamer Museum. First came the auction, which saw a goodly number of scales and weights pass on to new owners. Then came the "Bring and Buy" session, at which several dealers displayed a wide assortment of collectibles, much of which found favor with members looking to augment their collections.

Lunchtime then arrived, during which members took time to view the scales, weights and measures on display in the museum, inevitably accompanied by spirited discussion on various metrological subjects.

The afternoon session started with a talk by a certain Bob Stein on pocket letter scales, comprising 24 he had brought from home and supplemented that very week by several more acquired in London and Holland. This was followed by a short business meeting, a final chance to patronize the "Bring and Buy" dealers, and, regretfully, adieus all around.

All in all, it was a first-rate event, carefully planned to the last detail (name badges, programs, transportation, meals, etc.), and congratulations deservedly go to Gerard Houben and his committee for doing such a fine job, as well as thanks to Jan Bot, museum curator, for his kind hospitality.

WE MET IN LONDON, TOO.

Not everyone who attended the convention, but 14 of us enjoyed dinner together at London's venerable Reform Club on the Tuesday evening prior to the Holland convention. It was mainly member



Betty Wright's idea and husband Frank's club affiliation that made it all possible, and those who came together included the Wrights, Michael and Gwen Joyce, Arthur and Liz Middleton, Doug Dallimer, Gerard Turner (from Oxford), and Graham Forsdyke and associate Margaret Snell, Harriet Wynter, and three Steins (Bob, Margie and son Michael).

As chance would have it, member Michael Robinson of Wales, accompanied by his bride and nephew, was in London that day, but couldn't stay for the dinner. However, the Steins and Robinsons did spend time viewing "The Great Scales" at Berry Bros. & Rudd, Ltd. on St. James Street, saying hello to Denys Vaughn at London's Science Museum, and lunching together.

#### CARLEY'S CALL FOR CATALOGS.

We now have an excellent library of old scale catalogs for sale, but there's no point in standing still. Members are buying them in considerable numbers, and Tod Carley is intent on seeing our library grow by three or four catalogs a year. However, we're totally dependent on members making originals available to us, so Tod is asking any and all members who have any scale catalogs they'd be willing to lend us for reproduction purposes to write him and tell him so. To make it easy, his address is 407 Kingston Terrace, Deerfield, IL 60015, U.S.A. And to give you an idea of some (but definitely not all) of the manufacturers he's interested in, here's a sampling: Computing Scale Co., Detroit Automatic Scale Co., Jacobs Bros., Philadelphia Scoop & Scale Co., Penn Scale Mfg. Co., Torsion Balance Co., Turnbull Scale Co., Triner Scale & Mfg. Co., Pelouze Manufacturing Company, and Hanson Scale Company.

#### TWO BOOKLETS ON YOUR FAVORITE TOPIC.

Even though we're not offering a catalog with this mailing, we are offering two booklets, both profusely illustrated, written



by member J. T. (John) Graham of Cheshire, England, who is a widely-recognized authority on metrology. One is titled, "Weights and Measures," runs 32 pages, and is sub-titled "A Guide to Collecting." Its contents cover the history of weights and measures, how our weights systems started, sizes and shapes of weights, interesting marks on weights, materials and shapes of measures, and pitfalls for the collector.

The second, titled "Scales and Balances," is also 32 pages long and, again, is sub-titled "A Guide to Collecting." Its contents cover development of the beam scale, balances, steelyards, counter machines, letter scales, money scales, and spring balances. The two books are available through ISASC only as a set, and are priced at \$6.50, including postage and handling. For airmail outside the U.S. or Canada, the price is \$8.00. Please use the enclosed card to order.

AND WHILE YOU'RE IN A SPENDING MOOD...

we've got good news for you. Tod Carley's search for a suitable binder for EQUILIBRIUM has resulted in his finding one that fits our needs to a "T". It's hard cover, in an attractive brown vinyl covering, will hold 12 issues of EQM (three years' supply), and will bear an appropriate imprint on both the spine and front. However, we'll only purchase them if there's sufficient interest among our membership, and to gauge this, we're asking for orders in advance. The cost is \$11, including postage and handling in the U.S. and Canada and by surface mail elsewhere. For those outside the U.S. and Canada who want the binder shipped airmail, the cost is \$16.00. Use the enclosed card to place your order; if we receive 25 or more orders, we'll purchase the binders. If not, we'll refund the payments we've received.

NOW, ABOUT AN INDEX FOR EQM.

With three years' issues already published, Michael Crawforth feels that one consolidated index would serve our members better

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than the separate ones included in several past issues. However, to produce such an index and to do it right (with its own cover, etc.), costs money, especially now that our membership is 200 strong and we regularly must face the high cost of postage. Moreover, we're not sure how many members actually want such an index, so our first step is to find out. Please indicate your interest on the enclosed card, taking into account that the cost of the index would be between \$4 and \$6.

#### FOR THE COLLECTOR WITH CAMERA.

A good number of members, myself included, derive great value from pictures of our scales, conveniently mounted in an album. So, in response to several requests during the Holland convention, we've secured and are enclosing a combination catalog sheet and order form from a Minnesota firm that manufactures a varied line of photo albums. If you're in the market, you can pick out the kind you like and order direct. And if you have a goodly quantity of pictures, you might order one or more refills at the same time. (The type I use is W-5, which, expanded to hold 42 sheets or 84 pages, accommodates 252 photos.)

#### FISCAL UPDATE.

Enclosed is our financial statement for 1980 (through the good efforts of treasurer Bob Miller and our new outside accounting firm). As you'll note, we're quite solvent as of the end of the year, which, quite frankly, allows those of us who run the Society's affairs to breathe a little easier, knowing that we've got a decent reserve in the event inflation overtakes us or we come up against any extraordinary expenses.

#### NEW--AND UNUSUAL--MILESTONES.

From early on, ISASC has had cousin/cousin members and uncle/nephew members, but never father/son members. Until recently, that is, when Jeff Lenorovitz, son of Joe Lenorovitz, joined our society. Jeff lives in Paris and is a beginning collector, but



he made sure he came to our Holland convention, made new friends, and acquired a few scales before he left.

Past issues of EQM and everything else we offer in the way of literature are quite in demand, especially with new members who want to create a library quickly. This was never more evident than when both Morris Loewenstern of Amarillo, Texas, and Dr. Walter Tschohl of Munich, Germany, joined ISASC and immediately ordered one of everything! This amounted to 11 back issues of EQM, three articles on scales and weights, five catalogs, Michael Crawforth's Guide to Weighing Instruments, Al Eaches' historical document from 1497, and a packet of business cards. Now that's the kind of orders we like to get!

#### INFLATION AND THE FUTURE.

Costs are rising all around us, and especially postal rates, which are sky-high and threatening to go higher. As a result, we've been obliged to raise our dues to \$30 for U.S. and Canadian members and \$40 for members from other countries. The increase applies to new members joining in 1981 and to current members as of 1982.

We're sorry to have to assess members from other countries an additional \$10, but when you take airmail postage costs into account, you can better understand why. For instance, the last EQM mailing to countries other than the U.S. and Canada cost an average of \$4.00 each, which in a year's time, would amount to \$16.00 in postage alone. When you take ISASC's other costs into account (stationary and business forms, editorial fees, administrative expenses, etc.), it becomes apparent that the dues increases are not only justified but necessary if we're to operate in the black.

Lastly, on this same subject, if any of you are using

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invitation letters and applications for new members that are out of date in regard to our dues, please destroy them and write me for a new supply.

That's about it for now. My continuing thanks to each and every one of you for your support and encouragement.

Fraternally,

Bob Stein